

ISSUE OF FUSION WILL BE DECIDED

State Committee to Render Judgment in Norfolk County Contest.

CANVASS PRIMARY RETURNS

Contest Over House Seat—Argument Presented by Fusionists.

Consideration of the proposition whether or not fusion between Democratic and Republican candidates in Norfolk county will be the principal business before the State Democratic Committee when it meets at Murphy's Hotel to-morrow night. Delegations will be present representing both the Fusionists and Straightouts of the county. The subcommittee appointed at a recent meeting to investigate the June primary for county officers, and charged with the duty of determining the existence or non-existence of fusion, will be ready to make its report.

As to the nature of this report, the committee has evidently succeeded in keeping its own counsel much more effectively than is usually the case with such bodies. Not an inkling of its findings is procurable. The channels of information which, as a rule, are available in political matters are being ignored. The committee's party leaders are in the dark as to the nature of the report.

Differing Opinions. There are those who say that the Straightouts will win. They are arguing from the action of the State Committee in expressing its opposition to fusion at its last meeting, and from much of the evidence as has been published. On the other hand, there are not wanting those who say that while fusion in the past is admitted, it no longer exists save in the minds and predilections of individual voters, and that the committee should so find on the face of the evidence.

But those who talk in this manner all say they have no intimation of what the report of the subcommittee contains. While Chairman McAllister expressed a rather decided opinion at the hearing, to the effect that he was convinced of the presence of fusion, it is pointed out that he is but one member of the committee.

Perhaps a reason for the secrecy which the investigating body has maintained is explainable in part by the fact that its members in Norfolk. According to their own statements, outspoken suspicion was attached by ardent adherents of both factions to their every word and movement. They were watched constantly, and at last reached the point where they declined to hold friendly and impersonal conversations with the press, either side. A walk on the street with a Fusionist or a Straightout, or a cigar or soft drink taken together, caused rumors and criticisms which the committee men finally dodged by refusing to have anything to do with anybody.

Counting the Vote. A piece of business before the State Committee which will take up a good deal of time, unless it is referred to a subcommittee, will be the canvassing of the returns in the recent primary for two members of the United States Senate. The returns will be opened, examined for evidences of authenticity, and tabulated with the aid of adding machines. The vote by counties and cities will be available to the public in Wednesday morning's newspapers.

Another matter is the contest over the House seat between A. T. Taylor and John Rutherford. This arose over the fact that Mr. Taylor's name was omitted from the ticket in Gloucester.

While there have been reports of Republicans taking part in the primary in some sections, members of the committee do not believe that this matter will come before it, in the absence of a contest covering the point. Senator Aubrey E. Strode has indicated that "Republicans voted against him in Nelson county, but he has not counted, and has asked his friends to vote for his successful opponent. Similar statements have been made in regard to results for county offices in King George and Nottoway. But the State Committee will hardly be called upon to investigate, unless some serious riot to-day or to-morrow.

The Fusionists of Norfolk county have prepared a brief presenting the side of the contest, which is styled C. W. Coleman and others against W. L. Wilson and others. The brief was for the office of clerk of the Circuit Court. This brief the contesters say "counsel for Democrats were asked by the subcommittee to state for what they asked, and they declared that their request was that a member of the Fusion faction should not be a candidate for office, nor recognized as such by the Democratic Committee. It is principle of our American institutions that any man who can vote has a right to be voted for. If no man is permitted to be a candidate whose friends have in the exercise of their own individual right, voted for him, then we say that a large percentage of the voters of Norfolk county, of both factions, of the Democratic party, will be denied participation in Democratic elections, because it is shown that a large majority of the voters of Norfolk county at the general elections have supported a Republican for clerk. To say that they cannot participate in a Democratic primary is to say that if they participate at all they must oppose the Democratic nominee."

CONSIDER CHANGE IN CITY CHARTER

Special Committee to Hold Meeting to Make Up Recommendations.

SUGGEST EXECUTIVE BOARD

Small Body of Paid Men to Meet Daily and Give Entire Time to Work.

Chairman Gilbert Pollock will call during this week a meeting of the special committee on changes in the Form of City Government. The committee, made up of three Councilmen and two Aldermen, has, under the authority of the resolution by which it was created, associated with itself three well known citizens—L. Z. Morris, H. W. Rountree and Charles V. Meredith—each of whom has had large experience in civic affairs. Mr. Meredith having been for many years City Attorney, while Mr. Rountree saw long service in the City Council. Mr. Morris is a director of the Police Benevolent Association, and has in other substantial ways contributed to civic progress.

At a meeting held early in the summer Mr. Meredith submitted a carefully prepared paper which defined the exact limits under which the committee must work. He expressed the opinion that the pending amendment to the State Constitution, approved by the last Legislature and recently advertised in accordance with which it was designed, even if adopted by the incoming Legislature and ratified at the ensuing general election by the people of the State, he thinks the amendment will not authorize cities to adopt outright a commission form of government.

Want Charter Changes. That being the case, the special committee has turned its attention to what can be done in the way of simplification of the government by a legislative enactment, changing the city charter—such enactment as could be secured at the next session of the General Assembly and made to take effect from the end of the present terms of Councilmen.

Generally speaking the plan proposes a continuation of the present two branch Council, though considerably reduced in size, and the creation of a paid executive board of four or five men who shall be charged with the duty of carrying out policies laid down by the Council and as now performed by Council committees and the various municipal boards.

Besides the four boards there are at present sixteen joint standing committees of the City Council, each charged with the management of a city department, such as streets, electricity, water, cemeteries, markets, grounds and buildings, light, street cleaning and relief of the poor.

Board to Hold Daily Sessions

Under the plan under discussion, five men from the city at large would be charged with all these executive functions, the auditing of pay rolls and bills, the awarding of contracts and supervision of work, and the multitude of details now handled in committees. The Council would retain its Committee on Finance, as under the statute all appropriations must be made by the Council. The Council would retain the right to levy and collect taxes, fix salaries, adopt ordinances and amendments to the City Code, and would also retain, as a Committee on General Laws, the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform.

The executive board, made up of men paid for their entire time, would meet at the City Hall daily, having certain public hours when all citizens having business connected with street improvements, sewerage, light, water or any one of the multitudinous matters now coming before Council committees or boards, could be heard, and secure immediate disposition of their petitions.

Assures Harmony. The plan, it is urged, would do away with one of the greatest causes of complaint of the present government—the lack of harmony between departments. At present the Street Committee improves a street only to have the City Works or the Water Department come along and tear it to pieces to lay pipes; the Light Committee places a gas lamp at some point already provided by the Committee on Electricity, with an eye to light, while some other point goes neglected by the Street Committee.

It is generally agreed that the present city government of Richmond is remarkably free from graft or undue influence from any source. Searching investigations have been held again and again, and have revealed a little in recent years that showed malfeasance or misfeasance.

Nevertheless, the most active men in both branches of the Council—the men most familiar with city affairs—admit that the present system leads to enormous waste and duplication, to a lack of economy, a lack of system, and a decided want of any direct responsibility. In several instances where something has gone wrong, the committee had slipped out, leaving the department head to be the blame, although he had no authority, and in some cases the committee had taken the action over his protest.

Although authorized six months ago, the committee has held but a few meetings, and fear is expressed that when its report is submitted to the Council, action will be delayed until too late for the coming Legislature to act. If no provision for a change is effected before the April primaries, a new Council of Richmond will be nominated for another two years from September 1 next.

Dr. Miller to Read Paper.

Dr. Clifton M. Miller, professor of rhinology and laryngology at the Medical College of Virginia, will read a paper this week at Indianapolis before the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology on the subject: "The Histology and Medical Treatment of Acute and Chronic Adenoiditis Sinus Disease."

THIS PARROT SHOULD HAVE STATE FAIR JOB

Polly Parrot as a nurse was the new role discovered yesterday afternoon by travelers in the Main Street Station. That the feathered caretaker was a huge success was the general consensus of opinion for Polly not only succeeded in keeping its ward wreathed in smiles while the fond mother busied herself with taking care of the luggage, but kept a large crowd of onlookers amused at its quaint remarks.

It was a case of the mother, the baby and the parrot. The mother was the baby fretful and peevish drooping. They were all waiting for a train, and the waiting-room was crowded. The baby was quietly dozing on a bench when the mother went to the baggage-room. Then the youngster awoke. There was a healthy, lusty yell.

"Don't cry, don't cry, don't cry," squawked the bird.

"Goo," beamed the baby, a smile spreading over the cherubic countenance like a stray sunbeam flitting through a cloud.

"Chirp, chirp. Pretty baby, go to sleep," squawked Polly again. By this time, the crowd, attracted by the pseudo mother, had begun to gather around.

"Ain't he a pretty baby? Ain't he cute?" inquired Polly. The crowd assented. Somewhat away in the distance, the mother heard the summons. Like the mothering fowl with her chicks, she flew to the rescue.

"Aw, go on, you rube. You're a bunch of boobs. Ain't he a pretty baby?" was Polly's parting shot as the baby was sheltered by a motherly arm and the peaceful dose resumed.

"The Polly tucked its head to one side and there was quiet once more in the depot.

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REPUBLICANS MAY NAME CANDIDATES

Almost Certain to Nominate for Senate and House From City and County.

CALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Chairmen Moore and Vawter Will Give Notice Within Next Two Weeks.

Republican candidates for the House of Delegates and State Senate. It is expected, will be nominated to oppose the Democratic selections in the general election on November 7 in Richmond and Henrico county. It is also understood that a Republican candidate for the Senate will be nominated in the district composed of Chesterfield, Powhatan and Goochland counties.

C. Ridgeway Moore, chairman of the City Republican Committee, and W. R. Vawter, chairman of the county committee, each said last night that meetings of both bodies will be called within the next two weeks for the purpose of considering the advisability of placing candidates in the field. However, it is understood that there is practically no doubt that the question will be favorably decided.

No Opposition to Hulce. Mr. Moore was of the opinion last night that no Republican would make a race against H. L. Hulce, Democratic nominee for the City Collectorship, though he admitted that it is likely his party will make a fight for the House and Senate.

The usual Republican strength in Richmond is about 900 votes, but this number was increased to 1,200 in the last presidential election, caused by the so-called Taft Democrats. On the other hand, 6,000 Democrats are pledged by their votes in the recent primary to support that party.

Whether the followers of the G. O. P. will offer an aggressive campaign cannot now be said. However, local leaders have been quietly at work for some time, and have been strengthening their ranks by the promised support of younger citizens. It is said.

The apparent decision of the opposition to give fight has not in the least disturbed any of the Democratic candidates, and they are paying little heed to any Republican activity. They are confident that the usual Democratic majorities will be totaled up.

The Republicans have little time in which to act. Formal notice of their intention to enter the election must be filed with the clerks by all candidates not later than October 15, otherwise their names will not appear on the official ballot.

Ill With Paralysis. Mrs. Mollie F. Gee, of Lunenburg county, was stricken with paralysis Saturday night at the home of her son, Dr. E. W. Gee, 416 East Grace Street, where she is visiting. Her condition is serious.

Was Toting Pistol. Willie Robinson, colored, was arrested yesterday morning on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. The weapon was a pistol.

Bigcrows Visit Far Grounds

Hundreds of people went out to the State Fair grounds yesterday to take a look at the improvements and to observe the progress already made on many of the booths and devices. Eighty carpenters and electricians have been busy for two weeks on the devices which have been secured from Coney Island as permanent fixtures.

The new building for the exhibits by the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Bureau is about completed. There will be exhibits from more than forty counties in this building alone. These, with the many independent and individual agricultural exhibits, will make this department one of the most complete ever seen at a fair.

It was announced at Fair headquarters that Howard Levan, the boy aviator, the youngest bird-man in the business, would make two flights in his Strobel machine every day during the week of October 9. His flights have been the sensations of the fairs and shows of the East and Middle West for two months. He was in Allentown, Pa., all last week, where he created a sensation.

Permanent Show Stands Being Erected—Howard Levan to Aviate.

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One-Round Fight.

In an altercation yesterday morning at Foushee and Cary Streets between a westbound Oakwood and Main car and an automobile milk wagon, the car came off second best. The wagon's nose was punctured, but the car was knocked from the ring, and had to be assisted to its feet.

Two Grand Cruises "Around the World"

By the S. S. "Cleveland." Leaving New York October 21, 1911, and San Francisco February 6, 1912. Places visited on first cruise—New York, Madeira, Gibraltar, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Bombay, Colombo, Calcutta (Diamond Harbor), Rangoon, Singapore, Batavia, Manilla, Hongkong, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu, San Francisco. Second cruise in reversed order. Arrangements aboard and ashore made management of Hamburg-American Line.

Duration, about 24 months. Cost, \$250 and upwards, including shore excursions.

For tickets and further information, consult RICHMOND TRANSFER CO., 809 East Main Street.

Holeproof Hose

Have lessened the work in many a household. All kinds for men, women and children. All sold with a guarantee for six months.

Gans-Rady Company

HARRIS MAY RUN FOR AUDITORSHIP

Nottoway Man Spoken Of. Others Suggested to Succeed Donohoe.

Considering the apparent desirability of the position, and the probability that any one occupying it satisfactorily could hold it indefinitely, there has been surprisingly little activity in reference to the office of Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia, which is to be filled by the Legislature at its coming session. Auditor S. R. Donohoe has announced that he will not be a candidate for the position, but will retire at the conclusion of the term, on February 1, 1912.

During the last few days there has been some talk to the effect that Captain J. M. Harris, of Blackstone, will be a candidate. It is said that his friends are urging him to allow the use of his name in this connection, and that members of the Legislature are being asked not to pledge themselves to any one.

Captain Harris is one of the best known citizens of Nottoway county, and is a successful business man. He was suggested for the position after the death of the late Auditor Morton Marye, but it was said that he then declined to allow an application to be made to the Governor in his behalf.

Others Spoken Of. Several other names have been mentioned, but in a more or less desultory way, and there is little indication of active work. The only avowed candidates are Chief Clerk C. Lee Moore, who has been in the office for twenty-seven years, and Paul W. Garrett, of Leesburg. The names of Colonel Eugene C. Massey, of Richmond, H. M. Darnall, Commissioner of the Revenue for the city of Roanoke, and D. H. Pitts, member of the House of Delegates from Albemarle county, have been suggested, apparently without their consent.

Other offices to be filled by the incoming Legislature are those of Second Auditor, Register of the Land Office and Superintendent of Public Printing. The respective incumbents—Judge John G. Dew, Colonel John W. Richardson and Davis Bottom—have so far no avowed opposition.

Police Believe Kaufman Is Dead

No Trace Found in Canal of Man Who Disappeared Slightly Clad.

Jesse Kaufman, who disappeared Sunday night, September 17, dressed in only his socks and underclothes, from his boarding house at 815 East Franklin Street, is still registered at police headquarters as being numbered among the missing. Detective Sergeant Wiley and Detective Krengle yesterday morning searched the whole length of the canal, after the water, as is usual on Sunday, had been drained off. But there was no trace of the body, and the police have no clue which can aid them to find the missing man.

Kaufman left the house suddenly on Sunday night. His two suits of clothes, his shoes, his shirts and his other effects were found afterwards in his room by his landlady. Some newspapers early on the following morning saw a half-dressed man running down the street, holding up his hands and shrieking. They gave chase, but he soon outdistanced them. Later the same man was said to have been seen in Fulton, and another person saw a half-naked man in the Capitol Square. He was taking off one of his socks. He put it on again, and when the other person accosted him and asked him what was the matter, he said that it was nothing, and the other passed on.

The police have no suspicion of foul play. They think that the man has in some manner done away with himself, and have no doubts that his body will ultimately be recovered.

Kaufman was thirty-six years old. He had dark curly hair, and was five feet six inches tall, weighing about 145 pounds. His hands were large and were filled with gold. He was a state worker by trade, having come here from Norfolk, where his wife is now said to be.

Liquor Selling Charge

Negro Arrested—Young White Man Failed to Get His Drink.

R. A. Pryor, colored, was arrested yesterday morning by Policemen Griffin, Gentry and Duffy on a charge of selling liquor to a white man at Franklin Street. The officers confiscated some intoxicating liquors which they found after searching the house.

It is not known whether there be any connection between the two cases, but a young white man who was arrested at the First Station last night and complained that he had given a negro half a dollar to purchase him a pint of whiskey. He got the pint, and it tasted so good to his parching tongue that he gave the negro a dollar with which to buy another pint.

The negro did not return. The white man got neither his change nor his liquor, and, exceedingly wrathful, he appeared before a magistrate and asked that a warrant be issued for the negro's arrest. But it costs 50 cents to get a warrant, and he appeared doubtful.

He said he would go to see his partner. He went to see his partner, but up to midnight had not returned.

HORSE WAXES FAT AT CITY'S EXPENSE

Owner Earnestly Desired to Get Animal as Quickly as Possible.

If there be any one within the city limits, within its purlieus or anywhere in Henricerack and Hanover counties—and Chesterfield county may be included, too—who has lost a bay horse, age, pedigree and gait unknown, please come and get him, the police of the Second District, ask, pray and beg. That horse, or that bay horse rather, was picked up by an officer on September 15, and is now resting comfortably and eating his heart out in Bennett's stables. Mr. Bennett, who owns a lot of plugs and real horses, says that this is really a fine piece of horseflesh, and that if the owner doesn't show up soon, the bay will be sold at auction, and some one will get an animal cheap for about \$10 or \$12.50. When the animal and the officer first met, he—the horse—was nothing more than an outward show, with inward and visible signs of distress. Now you couldn't tell whether he has a rib. Such is the wonderful effect of oats. He probably won't want to leave if the owner should show up, as it seems as if he and his master must have had a "falling out" because he refused to go to the city and be in Richmond. Anyway,